

POR

A book was writ, call'd Tetrachordon,
The subject new: it walk'd the town a while,
Numb'ring good intellects; now seldom por'd on. *Milton.*
The eye grows weary, with poring perpetually on the same thing. *Dryden's Dufresnoy.*
Let him with pedants hunt for praise in books,
Pore out his life amongst the lazy gownmen,
Grow old and vainly proud in fancy'd knowledge. *Rowe.*
With sharpen'd sight pale antiquaries pore,
Th' inscription value, but the rust adore. *Pope.*
He hath been poring so long upon Fox's Martyrs, that he
imagines himself living in the reign of queen Mary. *Swift.*
The design is to avoid the imputation of pedantry, to shew
that they understand men and manners, and have not been
poring upon old unfashionable books. *Swift.*
POREBLIND. *adj.* [commonly spoken and written *purblind*.]
Nearighted; shortighted.
Poreblind men see best in the dimmer light, and likewise
have their sight stronger near at hand, than those that are not
poreblind, and can read and write smaller letters; for that the
spirits visual in those that are poreblind are thinner and rarer
than in others, and therefore the greater light disperse them.
Bacon's Natural History.
PORINESS. *n. f.* [from *por*.] Fullness of pores.
I took off the dressings, and set the trepan above the frac-
tured bone, considering the *poriness* of the bone below. *Wifem.*
PORISTICK method. *n. f.* [*ποριστικός*.] In mathematicks, is that
which determines when, by what means, and how many diffe-
rent ways a problem may be solved. *DiD.*
PORK. *n. f.* [*porc*, Fr. *porcus*, Lat.] Swines flesh unsalted.
You are no good member of the commonwealth; for, in
converting Jews to christians, you raise the price of pork.
Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice.
All flesh full of nourishment, as beef and pork, increaseth the
matter of phlegm. *Floyer on the Humours.*
PORKER. *n. f.* [from *pork*.] A hog; a pig.
Strait to the lodgments of his herd he runs,
Where the fat porkers slept beneath the fun. *Pope.*
PORKREATER. *n. f.* [*pork* and *eater*.] One who feeds on pork.
This making of christians will raise the price of hogs; if
we grow all to be porkers, we shall not shortly have a rather
on the coals for money. *Shakespeare's Merch. of Venice.*
PORKET. [from *pork*.] A young hog.
A priest appears
And off rings to the flaming altars bears;
A porket, and a lamb that never suffer'd shears. *Dryden.*
PORKLING. *n. f.* [from *pork*.] A young pig.
A hovel
Will serve thee in winter, moreover than that,
To shut up thy porklings, thou meanest to fat. *Tupper.*
POROSITY. *n. f.* [from *porous*.] Quality of having pores.
This is a good experiment for the disclosure of the nature
of colours; which of them require a finer porosity, and which
a grosser. *Bacon's Natural History.*
POROUS. *adj.* [*porous*, Fr. from *pore*.] Having small spiracles
or passages.
The rapid current, which through veins
Of porous earth with kindly thirst updrawn,
Rose a fresh fountain, and with many a rill
Water'd the garden. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. iv.*
Of light the greater part he took, and plac'd
In the sun's orb, made porous to receive
And drink the liquid light; firm to retain
Her gather'd beams; great palace now of light. *Milton.*
POROUSNESS. *n. f.* [from *porous*.] The quality of having
pores.
They will forcibly get into the porousness of it, and pass
between part and part, and separate the parts of that thing
one from another; as a knife doth a solid substance, by hav-
ing its thinnest parts press'd into it. *Digby on Bodies.*
PORPHYRE. *n. f.* [from *πορφύρεα*; *porphyrites*, Lat. *porphyre*,
Porphyry.] *n. f.* [*Fr.*] Marble of a particular kind.
I like best the porphyry, white or green marble, with a
mullar or upper stone of the same. *Peacocks on Drawing.*
Consider the red and white colours in porphyre; hinder light
but from striking on it, its colours vanish, and produce no
such ideas in us; but upon the return of light, it produces
these appearances again. *Locke.*
PORPOISE. *n. f.* [*porc poisson*, Fr.] The sea-hog.
PORPUS. *n. f.* [*porc poisson*, Fr.] The sea-hog.
Amphibious animals link the terrestrial and aquatick to-
gether; seals live at land and at sea, and porpoises have the
warm blood and entrails of a hog. *Locke.*
Parch'd with unextinguish'd thirst,
Small beer I guzzle till I burst;
And then I drag a bloated corpus
Swell'd with a droply like a porpus. *Swift.*
PORPACIOUS. *adj.* [*porpacus*, Lat. *porrace*, Fr.] Greenish.
If the lesser intestines be wounded, he will be troubled
with porpacious vomiting. *Wifeman's Surgery.*
PORRET. *n. f.* [*porrum*, Lat.] A scallion.
It is not an easy problem to resolve why garlick, molys

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and porrets have white roots, deep green leaves and black
seeds. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
PORRIDGE. *n. f.* [more properly *porrage*; *porriato*, low Latin,
from *porrum*, a leek.] Food made by boiling meat in
water; broth.
I had as lief you should tell me of a mess of porridge. *Sho.*
PORRIDGEPOT. *n. f.* [*porridge* and *pot*.] The pot in which
meat is boiled for a family.
PORRINGER. *n. f.* [from *porridge*.]
1. A vessel in which broth is eaten.
A small wax candle put in a socket of brass, then set up-
right in a porringer full of spirit of wine, then set both the
candle and spirit of wine on fire, and you shall see the flame
of the candle become four times bigger than otherwise, and
appear globular. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*
A physician undertakes a woman with fore eyes, who
dawbs 'em quite up with ointment, and, while she was in
that pickle, carries off a porringer. *L'Estrange.*
The porringers, that in a row
Hung high, and made a glittering show,
Were now but leathern buckets rang'd. *Swift.*
2. It seems in *Shakespeare's* time to have been a word of con-
tempt for a headstret; of which perhaps the first of these
passages may show the reason.
Here is the cap your worship did bespeak.
—Why this was moulded on a porringer. *Shakespeare.*
A haberdasher's wife of small wit rail'd upon me, till her
pink'd porringer fell off her head. *Shakespeare, Henry VIII.*
PORRECTION. *n. f.* [*porrectio*, Latin.] The act of reaching
forth.
PORT. *n. f.* [*port*, Fr. *portus*, Latin.]
1. A harbour; a safe situation for ships.
Her small gondelay her port did make,
And that gay pair issuing on the shore,
Disburden'd her. *Fairy Queen, b. ii.*
I should be still
Peering in maps for ports, and ways and roads. *Shakespeare.*
The earl of Newcastle seized upon that town; when there
was not one port town in England, that avowed their obe-
dience to the king. *Clarendon, b. viii.*
A weather beaten vessel holds
Gladly the port. *Milton.*
2. [*Porta*, Lat. *portus*, Sax. *porte*, Fr.] A gate.
Shew all thy praises within the ports of the daughter of
Sion. *Psalms ix. 14.*
Descend, and open your uncharged ports. *Shakespeare.*
He I accuse,
The city ports by this hath entered. *Shakespeare, Coriolanus.*
O polifh'd perturbation! golden care!
That keep'st the ports of slumber open wide
To many a watchful night; sleep with it now!
Yet not so found, and half so deeply sweet,
As he, whose brow with homely biggen bound,
Snores out the watch of night. *Shakespeare, Henry IV.*
The mind of man hath two ports; the one always fre-
quented by the entrance of manifold vanities; the other de-
solate and overgrown with grafts, by which enter our chari-
table thoughts and divine contemplations. *Raleigh.*
From their ivory port the cherubim
Forth issu'd. *Milton.*
3. The aperture in a ship, at which the gun is put out.
At Portsmouth the Mary Rose, by a little way of the
ship in casting about, her ports being within sixteen inches of
the water, was overfet and lost. *Raleigh.*
The linlocks touch, the pond'rous ball expires,
The vig'rous seaman every port hole plies.
And adds his heart to every gun he fires. *Dryden.*
4. [*Portie*, Fr.] Carriage; air; mien; manner; bearing;
external appearance; demeanour.
In that proud port, which her so goodly graceth,
Whiles her fair face she rears up to the sky,
And to the ground her cyclids low embraceth,
Most goodly temperature ye may descry. *Spenser.*
Think you much to pay two thousand crowns,
And bear the name and port of gentleman?
See Godfrey there in purple clad and gold,
His stately port and princely look behold. *Forisfax.*
Their port was more than human, as they flood;
I took it for a fairy vision
Of some gay creatures of the element,
That in the colours of the rainbow live. *Milton.*
A proud man is so far from making himself great by his
haughty and contemptuous port, that he is usually punished
with neglect for it. *Callier on Pride.*
Now lay the line, and measure all thy court,
By inward virtue, not external port;
And find whom justly to prefer above
The man on whom my judgment plac'd my love. *Dryden.*
Thy plummy crest
Nods horrible, with more terrific port
Thou walk'st, and seem'st already in the fight. *Philips.*
To PORT.

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To PORT. *v. a.* [*porto*, Lat. *porter*, Fr.] To carry in form.
Th' angelick squadron bright
Turn'd fiery red, sharpening in mooned horns
Their phalanx, and began to hem him round
With ported spears. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. iv.*
PORTABLE. *adj.* [*portabilis*, Lat.]
1. Manageable by the hand.
2. Such as may be born along with one.
The pleasure of the religious man is an easy and portable
pleasure, such an one as he carries about in his bosom, with-
out alarming the eye or envy of the world. *South.*
3. Such as is transported or carried from one place to another.
Most other portable commodities decay quickly in their use;
but money is by slower degrees removed from, or brought into
the free commerce of any country, than the greatest part of
other merchandize. *Locke.*
4. Sufferable; supportable.
How light and supportable my pains seem now,
When that which makes me bend, makes the king bow.
Shakespeare's King Lear.
All these are portable
With other graces weigh'd. *Shakespeare, Macbeth.*
PORTABLENESS. *n. f.* [from *portable*.] The quality of being
portable.
PORTAGE. *n. f.* [*portage*, Fr.]
1. The price of carriage.
2. [From *port*.] Porthole.
Lend the eye a terrible aspect;
Let it pry through the portage of the head,
Like the brafs cannon. *Shakespeare's Henry V.*
PORTAL. *n. f.* [*portail*, Fr. *porta*, Italian.] A gate; the
arch under which the gate opens.
King Richard doth appear,
As doth the blushing discontented sun,
From out the fiery port of the east. *Shakespeare, Rich. II.*
Though I should run
To those disclosing portals of the sun;
And walk his way, until his horses sleep
Their fiery locks in the Iberian deep. *Sandys.*
He through heav'n
That open'd wide her blazing portals, led
To God's eternal house direct the way. *Milton.*
The flick for air before the portal gasp. *Dryden.*
The portal consists of a composite order unknown to the
ancients. *Addison's Remarks on Italy.*
PORTANCE. *n. f.* [from *porter*, Fr.] Air; mien; port; de-
meanour.
There stepped forth a goodly lady,
That seem'd to be a woman of great worth,
And by her stately portance born of heav'nly birth. *F. Qu.*
Your loves,
Thinking upon his services, took from you
The apprehension of his present portance,
Which gibingly, ungravelly, he did fashion. *Shakespeare.*
PORTASS. *n. f.* [Sometimes called *portais*, and by Chaucer *port-
bofe*.] A breviary; a prayer book.
In his hand his portesse still he bare,
That much was worn, but therein little red;
For of devotion he had little care. *Fairy Queen.*
An old priest always read in his portais mumpimus domine
for mumpimus; whereof when he was admonished, he said that
he now had used mumpimus thirty years, and would not leave
his old mumpimus for their new mumpimus. *Camden.*
PORTCULLIS. *n. f.* [*portecullisse*, Fr. quasi *porta clausa*.] A
PORTCLUSE. } fort of machine like a harrow, hung over the
gates of a city, to be let down to keep out an enemy.
Over it a fair portcullis hung,
Which to the gate directly did incline,
With comely compass and compacture strong,
Neither unseemly short, nor yet exceeding long. *F. Qu.*
The cannon against St. Stephen's gate executed so well,
that the portcullis and gate were broken, and entry opened
into the city. *Hayward.*
She the huge portcullis high up drew,
Which but herself, not all the Stygian pow'rs
Cou'd once have mov'd. *Milton.*
Pyrrhus comes, neither men nor walls
His force sustain, the torn portcullis falls.
The upper eyelid claps down, and is as good a fence as a
portcullis against the importunity of the enemy. *More.*
The gates are opened, the portcullis drawn;
And deluges of armies from the town
Come pouring in. *Dryden.*
To PORTCULLIS. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To bar; to shut
up.
Within my mouth you have engoal'd my tongue,
Doubly portcullis'd with my teeth and lips. *Shakespeare.*
PORTED. *adj.* [*porter*, Fr.] Borne in a certain or regular
order.
They hem him round with ported spears. *Milton.*
To PORTEND. *v. a.* [*portend*, Lat.] To foretoken; to
foreshow as omens.

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As many as remained, he earnestly exhorteth to prevent
portended calamities. *Hooker.*
Doth this churlish superscription
Portend some alteration in good will? *Shakespeare.*
A moist and a cool summer portendeth a hard winter. *Bacon.*
True opener of mine eyes,
Much better seems this vision, and more hope
Of peaceful days portends, than those two past. *Milton.*
True poets are the guardians of a state,
And when they fail, portend approaching fate. *Roscommon.*
The ruin of the state in the destruction of the church, is
not only portended as its sign, but also inferred from it as its
cause. *South's Sermons.*
PORTE'NSION. *n. f.* [from *portend*.] The act of foretoking.
Although the red comets do carry the portensions of Mars,
the brightly white should be of the influence of Venus. *Brown.*
PORTENT. *n. f.* [*portentum*, Lat.] Omen of ill; prodigy
foretoking misery.
O, what portents are these?
Some heavy business hath my lord in hand,
And I must know it. *Shakespeare's Henry IV.*
My loss by dire portents the god foretold;
Yon riven oak, the fairest of the green. *Dryden.*
PORTENTOUS. *adj.* [*portentus*, Lat. from *portent*.] Mon-
strous; prodigious; foretoking ill.
They are portentous things
Unto the climate, that they point at. *Shakespeare.*
This portentous figure
Comes armed through our watch to like the king
That was. *Shakespeare, Hamlet.*
Overlay
With this portentous bridge the dark abyss. *Milton.*
No beast of more portentous size
In the Hercinian forest lies. *Roscommon.*
Let us look upon them as so many prodigious exceptions
from our common nature, as so many portentous animals, like
the strange unnatural productions of Africa. *South.*
Every unwonted meteor is portentous, and some divine
prognostick. *Glanvil.*
The petticoat will shrink at your first coming to town; at
least a touch of your pen will make it contract itself, and by
that means oblige several who are terrified or attonified at this
portentous novelty. *Addison's Spectator, N^o 127.*
PORTER. *n. f.* [*portier*, Fr. from *porta*, Lat. a gate.]
1. One that has the charge of the gate.
Porter, remember what I give in charge,
And, when you've so done, bring the keys to me. *Shakespeare.*
Arm all my household presently, and charge
The porter he let no man in till day. *Benj. Johnson.*
Nic. Frog demanded to be his porter, and his fishmonger,
to keep the keys of his gates, and furnish the kitchen. *Arb.*
2. One who waits at the door to receive messengers.
A fav'rite porter with his master vie,
Be brib'd as often, and as often lie. *Pope.*
3. [*Porteur*, Fr. from *porta*, Lat. to carry.] One who carries
burthens for hire.
It is with kings sometimes as with porters, whose packs
may jostle one against the other, yet remain good friends
still. *Hawell.*
By porter, who can tell, whether I mean a man who bears
burthens, or a servant who waits at a gate? *Watts.*
PORTERAGE. *n. f.* [from *porter*.] Money paid for carriage.
PORTESSE. *n. f.* A breviary. See PORTASS.
PORTGLAVE. *n. f.* [*porter* and *glave*, Fr. and Erie.] A sword
bearer. *Ainsworth.*
PORTGRAVE. } *n. f.* [*porta*, Lat. and *grave*, Teut. a keeper.]
PORTGREVE. } The keeper of a gate. Obsolete.
PORTICO. *n. f.* [*porticus*, Lat. *portico*, Italian; *portique*, Fr.]
A covered walk; a piazza.
The rich their wealth bestow
On some expensive airy portico;
Where safe from showers they may be born in state,
And free from tempests for fair weather wait. *Dryden.*
PORTION. *n. f.* [*portion*, Fr. *portio*, Latin.]
1. A part.
These are parts of his ways, but how little a portion is
heard of him? *Job xxvi. 14.*
Like favour find the Irish, with like fate
Advanc'd to be a portion of our state. *Waller.*
In battles won, fortune a part did claim,
And soldiers have their portion in the fame. *Waller.*
Those great portions or fragments fell into the abyss; some
in one posture, and some in another. *Burnet.*
Pirithous no small portion of the war
Preis'd on, and took his lance, *Dryden.*
2. A part assigned; an allotment; a dividend.
Here their pris'n ordain'd and portion fet. *Milton.*
Should you no honey vow to taste,
But what the master-bees have plac'd
In compass of their cells, how small
A portion to your share would fall? *Waller.*